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"BREAKING THROUGH"

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Scenario by C. Graham Baker

EPISODE

TWO

Two Reel
Drama

Director:
ROBERT WENNINGER

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SYNOPSIS

Bettina Lowden learns from her guardian Peter Martin, that her fortune has been swept away and that unless a railroad from the Lucky Lode Mine to the coast is built in time to obtain a permanent grant to the property, she will be penniless. If the road is completed, she will be rich. To familiarize her with the operations and financial condition, Martin gives her some reports. The secretary, really a spy in the employ of Birkland, is asked for an envelope. The spy prepares a dummy envelope - hoping to substitute it for the one that contains the papers. Bettina bids her guardian goodby and exits fast, bumping into Willard Warde, a young engineer - who has just returned to the city after building a bridge in Central America. The two exchange glances and mutual interest is established. The spy uses this opportunity to switch the envelopes, and as Warde goes in to see Martin, the spy goes out with the real envelope concealed in his hat. Hardly has he gone, however, when Bettina notices that the envelope is different, the real one was smudged by ink from her fingers - and rushes out after him. The spy flees to the roof where there is a thrilling chase, in which the spy loses his hat, and before he can recover it, Bettina has changed envelopes again. The spy escapes - but Bettina has the right envelope. Martin offers Warde the job as engineer in charge of the railroad construction. He promises to let Martin know. On his way out he learns who Bettina is, and determines to accept the job and fight for her fortune. Bettina tells her guardian about the spy, and then obtains his advice to go to a reception given that night by Birkland's daughter. At the reception Birkland instructs his son, Carter, to woo and wed Bettina, that they may clinch their title to the Lucky Lode property and improve their social position. Carter makes love to Bettina and proposes, but is rejected. The spy delivers the envelope to Birkland, only to learn that he got the dummy envelope and that Bettina still has her papers. Birkland instructs the spy to have Bettina's house robbed that night. Toward dawn, Bettina is awakened by a noise in the library where two burglars are endeavoring to open the safe. She goes downstairs, listens at the door and learns that in a few minutes they will have the safe open and obtain the papers. She finds the telephone wires cut - sees no hope in the elderly servants asleep on the top floor and displaying her ingenuity of mind, rushes to her room, cuts out of a card-board the outline of a policeman, dons a pair of heavy shoes and comes down to the library. Holding the card-board replica of the policeman before the glass door of the library, she stamps heavily on the floor and calls out, "They're in the library, officers. Get them." Then she turns on the lights. The burglars have just opened the safe when they hear this, look at the door and see apparently a burly cop at the door. They drop everything and flee through the window. Satisfied that they are gone, Bettina enters the library obtains the papers, closes the safe and goes back to her room to complete her night's sleep. The next day, Bettina starts in her runabout for the city,

followed by two of Birkland's agents in another car. Bettina picks up a girl friend and the two lunch at a roadhouse. Warde is eating there. Birkland arrives having tipped off that Warde is there, meets his agents, instructs them to get the papers from Bettina and then meets Warde, trying to induce him to accept a proposition. Warde is hesitating at the munificent offer, when he catches sight of Bettina. This determines him and he refuses the offer. Bettina continues alone on her way followed by the agents. They try to hold her up, but she outwits them and dashes off toward the country, with the agents in hot pursuit. Warde drives up, seeing part of this and follows on after. Bettina's ~~max~~ car stalls on a trestle and she climbs down underneath, out of sight, hanging from a perilous position by her hands. The agents arrive, believe she has jumped to the stream far below - and they flee, leaving Bettina weakened, hanging over the stream. Her strength is not sufficient for her to get back unassisted. Her fingers show signs of slipping, as the scene fades...

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